

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

May 6, 2014

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight/Chairperson, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Keith Vinci, Joseph Carta (via phone), Abigail Nolan – Youth in Government

Absent: Richard Pelletier, Marie Hurley, Phil Cacciola

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director Recreation & Community Services, Karen Nocera, Recreation & Community Services

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:10pm.

3. Public Hearing: none

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 1, 2014, was made by August DeFrance and seconded by Joseph Carta. The motion was passed.*

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that the Building Committee Meeting discussed new furniture in depth. There are looking at different furniture for different parts of the Senior Center. There are many different types of chairs that have been delivered to the Recreation/Community Services department so that a decision could be made on which chairs to order. It was Ron Klattenberg's last meeting and they celebrated with a pizza party. A discussion ensued.
- Ellie Paules stated that there was a fire at Monarca Place. There were 6 apartments that were damaged. The damages were mostly caused by the sprinkler system. Ellie's apartment was 1 of the 6 that was damaged. The fire started by an unattended pot that was left on a stove upstairs which caused the sprinkler system to go on and it flooded the downstairs apartment. There was no interpreter for the people that reside at Monarca Place that are hearing impaired when the firefighters arrived. It took about 15 minutes for the fire trucks to arrive. Keith Vinci called the fire department and spoke to Al Santostefano to determine why there was no interpreter on site. Keith spoke to Al Santostefano as well as dispatch to figure out how to proceed in the future. There is now a protocol list on how they are to respond to Monarca Place in the future. There was supposed to already have been a plan in place but apparently there was not. A discussion ensued.
- Abigail Nolan stated that the seniors last day will be on May 16th. The senior prom was held last weekend and the junior prom will be held this weekend.
- Keith Vinci mentioned that he was at Wesleyan University which was holding a conference for the purpose of trying to get the deaf community together and it was a very good first step. A discussion ensued.
- Joseph Carta mentioned that he has not received any type of response from the letter that was sent to the property management of River's Edge regarding the door problem. Keith Vinci stated that he will send another letter. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera reported that the Unified Theatre program at the Governor's Mansion was a success. The Lady Katharine Boat cruise is full. There was also a senior bus trip to NYC that was a success. The Easter Candy Hunt was a success with about 350 children and their families also

were in attendance. The Recreation Department is prepared for the summer programs. A discussion ensued.

- Marty Knight mentioned that Steve Shapiro's term ended April 30, 2014. The person who replaces Steve has to be a non-majority party person. Marie Norwood told Marty that she would contact the Mayor and get back to Marty. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- August DeFrance mentioned that when they begin the restoration of the Chapel at Indian Hill Cemetery, it will be handicapped accessible. A discussion ensued.
- Audible walk systems are up and working but there needs to be a way for a visually impaired person to be able to find the buttons on the pole. They are not all in the same place which is causing confusion. A discussion ensued.

Adjournment: *A motion of adjournment was made by Keith Vinci and was seconded by Ellie Paules. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte